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Agenda item 95 (b)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Report of the Second Committee (Part III)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 95, sub-items (b) and (c) (see A/50/617, para. 3). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 38th and 41st meetings, on 22 November and 5 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.38 and 41).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/50/L.30 AND L.53

2. At the 38th meeting, on 22 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Commission on Human Settlements" (A/C.2/50/L.30), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, in which the Assembly established the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to serve as the institutional focus for human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

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* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/617 and addenda.

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"Recalling also its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the intergovernmental body responsible for coordination, evaluating and monitoring the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 1/

"Recalling further resolution 47/180 of December 1992, in which it decided to convene the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996, and to establish an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference that would be an organizational part of the Centre,

"Noting with satisfaction the positive role played by the Centre in the implementation of the Strategy and the human settlement aspects of Agenda 21, 2/

"Noting with concern that two thirds of the entire increase in world population currently occurs in urban areas, so that by the year 2000 almost 50 per cent of the world population will be living in towns and cities, and that that trend is straining the capacity of Governments, at both the national and local levels, to mobilize the financial, technical and managerial resources necessary to sustain such human settlements,

"1. Endorses the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fifteenth session (Nairobi, 25 April-1 May 1995), 3/ including its decision 15/1 on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000; 1/

"2. Takes note with appreciation of the contribution of the Commission and of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the preparations at the national, regional and global levels for the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996;

"3. Encourages the Commission and the Centre to submit their contributions to the preparations for the Conference to the Preparatory Committee at its third session, to be held in New York from 26 February to 8 March 1996;

"4. Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the role of the Commission in the implementation and follow-up of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference."

1/ Resolution 43/181, annex.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

3/ A/50/8 and Add.1.

3. At the 41st meeting, on 5 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Commission on Human Settlements" (A/C.2/50/L.53), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.30, and orally revised it by deleting operative paragraph 4, which had read:

> "Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the role of the Commission in the implementation and follow-up of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference."

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.53, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 6).

5. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.53, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.30 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Commission on Human Settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, in which it established the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to serve as the institutional focus for human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

Recalling also its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 4/

Recalling further its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992, by which it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996 and requested the Secretary-General to establish an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference, which should be organizationally part of the Centre,

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4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/43/8/Add.1).

Noting with satisfaction the positive role played by the Centre in the implementation of the Global Strategy and the human settlement aspects of Agenda 21, 5/

Aware of the fact that two thirds of the entire increase in world population currently occurs in urban areas, so that by the year 2000 almost 50 per cent of the world population will be living in towns and cities, and noting with concern that high-level urbanization is straining the capacity of Governments, at both the national and the local levels, to mobilize the financial, technical and managerial resources necessary to sustain such human settlements,

1. Endorses the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fifteenth session (Nairobi, 25 April-1 May 1995), 6/ including its resolution 15/1 on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 7/ and the report of the Commission on the implementation of the Global Strategy; 8/

2. Takes note with appreciation of the contribution of the Commission and of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the preparations at the national, regional and global levels for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996;

3. Encourages the Centre to submit its contributions to the preparations for the Conference to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its third session, to be held in New York between 5 and 16 February 1996.

5/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum) resolution 1, annex II.

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 8 and corrigenda (A/50/8 and Corr.1 and 2).

7/ Ibid., annex I, sect. A.

8/ Ibid., Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/50/8/Add.1).

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)

Report of the Second Committee (Part IV)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 95, sub-items (b) and (c) (see A/50/617, para. 3). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 38th, 41st and 43rd meetings, on 22 November and 5 and 12 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.38, 41 and 43).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.27 and L.57

2. At the 38th meeting, on 22 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China and Turkey, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)" (A/C.2/50/L.27), which read as follows:

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* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/617 and addenda.

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as well as the resolutions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the integration of women in development,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development, 1/

"Recognizing the significant contribution that women make to economic activities and the major force that they represent for change and development in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas, such as agriculture, industry and services,

"Emphasizing that empowering women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty, since women contribute to the economy through both their remunerated and unremunerated work,

"Recognizing that the economic and financial crisis that exists in many developing countries has resulted in the rapid feminization of poverty, especially in rural areas and in female-headed households,

"Aware that women's continued lack of equal access to education and training, and their lack of control over land, capital, technology and other areas of production impede their full contribution to and opportunity to benefit from development,

"Recognizing that the informal sector is a major source of employment for women in many developing countries,

"Noting the important role played by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in the integration of women in development,

"1. Welcomes the adoption of the Beijing Declaration 2/ and Platform for Action 3/ by the Fourth World Conference on Women;

"2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development; 1/

"3. Notes with satisfaction the inclusion in the Platform for Action of critical areas of concern, namely, women in poverty, women in the economy, and women and the environment;

"4. Stresses that a favourable and conducive international economic and financial environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the effective integration of women in development;

1/ A/50/399.

2/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

3/ Ibid., annex II.

"5. Calls upon all Governments to create an enabling environment to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities through, inter alia, the adoption of policy and legal measures and provisions of other necessary structures;

"6. Requests the international community, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to assist developing countries by providing opportunities, including scholarships, to women and girls, in particular in the areas of science, technical and vocational training, so as to facilitate the full and effective contribution of women to development;

"7. Urges multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks to review and implement policies to ensure that a higher proportion of measures reach women in rural and remote areas."

3. At the 42nd meeting, on 8 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women in development" (A/C.2/50/L.66), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.46, and orally revised the text as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 6, in the second line, the words "at the above-mentioned Conference" were replaced with the words "in Beijing", and in the third line, the word "by" was replaced with the word "through";

(b) In operative paragraph 10, in the fourth line, the words "by increasing women's" were replaced with the words "through increased", and in the fifth line, the word "by" was inserted before the word "women's".

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.66, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Japan (see A/C.2/50/SR.42).

6. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.66, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.46 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

7. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.57, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.27 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft decision

8. At its 43rd meeting, on 12 December, the Committee decided to take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the regional commissions on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at the regional level, submitted under item 95 (c) (see para. 10).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996, and to establish both a preparatory committee and an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference,

Reiterating its gratitude to the Government of Turkey for offering to act as host to the Conference, which is to be held at Istanbul,

Noting with satisfaction the progress that has been made so far in the preparations for the Conference, as outlined in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on its second substantive session 5/ and the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Conference, 6/

Reaffirming the importance of the principles and concepts set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 7/ and Agenda 21 8/ for the purpose of guiding the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference,

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5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/50/37).

6/ A/50/519.

7/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.18 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex I.

8/ Ibid., annex II.

Recalling also its resolution 49/109 of 19 December 1994, in which, inter alia, it decided that a third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee would be held at United Nations Headquarters early in 1996 to complete the preparatory work for the Conference,

1. Endorses the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on its second substantive session (Nairobi, 24 April-5 May 1995), 5/ which contains, inter alia, decision II/1 on the financing of the Conference and its preparatory activities, decision II/3 on the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee on the organization of work of the Conference, including the holding of pre-conference consultations on 1 and 2 June 1996, the establishment of committees and other procedural matters and decision II/4 on the rules of procedure for the Conference; 9/

2. Decides that the third session of the Preparatory Committee will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 16 February 1996;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary provisions, within existing resources, so that the Preparatory Committee may, if it so decides, establish two working groups to meet in addition to plenary meetings for the duration of the third session;

4. Notes with interest the call by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to give the Conference the dimensions of a "city summit", and reaffirms that the Conference should be held at the highest possible level of participation;

5. Expresses its sincere appreciation to those States and organizations that have made or pledged financial or other contributions in support of the preparatory activities for the Conference, and requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to make every effort to raise the extrabudgetary resources required for Conference activities and preparations;

6. Renews its appeal to all Governments, especially the Governments of developed countries and other Governments in a position to do so, as well as to international and regional financial institutions, to make substantial contributions to the voluntary fund established by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/180 for the purpose of financing preparatory activities for the Conference and supporting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process;

7. Encourages all relevant non-governmental organizations that are interested, especially organizations from developing countries, to participate in and contribute to the Conference and its preparatory process on the basis of the procedures adopted at recent United Nations conferences;

9/ As amended in A/C.2/50/9 and Corr.1.

12. Requests the United Nations development system to work towards establishing a more coherent approach to its support for women's income-generating activities, in particular credit schemes;

13. Decides to include on the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session a sub-item entitled "Effective mobilization and integration of women in development";

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on action taken to implement the present resolution.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)

Report of the Second Committee (Part IV)**

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 95, sub-items (b) and (c) (see A/50/617, para. 3). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 38th, 41st and 43rd meetings, on 22 November and 5 and 12 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.38, 41 and 43).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.27 and L.57

2. At the 38th meeting, on 22 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China and Turkey, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)" (A/C.2/50/L.27), which read as follows:

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

** The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/617 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996, and to establish both a preparatory committee and an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference,

"Reiterating its gratitude to the Government of Turkey for offering to act as host to the Conference, which is to be held in Istanbul,

"Noting with satisfaction the progress made so far in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), as outlined in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on its second substantive session, 1/ as well as in the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Conference, 2/

"Reaffirming the importance of the principles and concepts set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 3/ and Agenda 21 4/ for the purpose of implementing the decisions and recommendations of Habitat II,

"Recalling also its resolution 49/109, in which, inter alia, it decided that a third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee be held at United Nations Headquarters early in 1996 to complete the preparatory work for the Conference,

"1. Endorses the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on its second substantive session (Nairobi, 24 April-5 May 1995), 1/ which contains, inter alia, decision II/1 on the financing of the Conference and its preparatory activities; decision II/3 on the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee on the organization of work of the Conference, including the holding of pre-conference consultations on 1 and 2 June 1996, the establishment of committees and other procedural matters; and decision II/4 on the rules of procedure for the Conference;

"2. Decides that the third session of the Preparatory Committee will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 26 February to 8 March 1996 (rather than from 5 to 16 February 1996) to finalize the

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/50/37).

2/ A/50/519.

3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.18 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex I.

4/ Ibid., annex II.

provisional agenda for the Conference and to formulate the draft global plan of action to be adopted by the Conference, including a statement of principles and commitments as an integrated part of the plan of action;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary provisions, within existing resources, so that the Preparatory Committee may, if it so decides, establish two working groups to meet in addition to plenary meetings for the duration of the third session;

"4. Reaffirms that the Conference should have the dimensions of a 'city summit' and should be held at the highest possible level of participation, as affirmed in its resolution 49/109 of 19 December 1994;

"5. Expresses its sincere appreciation to those States and organizations that have made or pledged financial or other contributions in support of the preparatory activities for the Conference, and renews its appeal to those that have not yet done so to contribute substantially to the voluntary fund, which was established by the Assembly in its resolution 47/180 for the purpose of financing preparatory activities for the Conference, in order to facilitate the full and effective participation of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, at the third session of the Preparatory Committee and at the Conference itself;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the outcome of the Conference;

"7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session a sub-item entitled 'United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)' under the item 'Sustainable development and international economic cooperation'."

3. A statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.27 submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, was contained in document A/C.2/50/L.44.

4. At the 41st meeting, on 5 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)" (A/C.2/50/L.57), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.27, and orally revised it as follows: In the fourth preambular paragraph, in the last line the word "implementing" was replaced by the words "guiding the implementation of".

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.57, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 9).

6. After the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.57, a statement was made by Turkey (see A/C.2/50/SR.41).

7. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.57, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.27 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft decision

8. At its 43rd meeting, on 12 December, the Committee decided to take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the regional commissions on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at the regional level, submitted under item 95 (c) (see para. 10).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996, and to establish both a preparatory committee and an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference,

Reiterating its gratitude to the Government of Turkey for offering to act as host to the Conference, which is to be held at Istanbul,

Noting with satisfaction the progress that has been made so far in the preparations for the Conference, as outlined in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on its second substantive session 5/ and the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Conference, 6/

Reaffirming the importance of the principles and concepts set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 7/ and Agenda 21 8/ for the purpose of guiding the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference,

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5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/50/37).

6/ A/50/519.

7/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.18 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex I.

8/ Ibid., annex II.

Recalling also its resolution 49/109 of 19 December 1994, in which, inter alia, it decided that a third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee would be held at United Nations Headquarters early in 1996 to complete the preparatory work for the Conference,

1. Endorses the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on its second substantive session (Nairobi, 24 April-5 May 1995), 5/ which contains, inter alia, decision II/1 on the financing of the Conference and its preparatory activities, decision II/3 on the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee on the organization of work of the Conference, including the holding of pre-conference consultations on 1 and 2 June 1996, the establishment of committees and other procedural matters and decision II/4 on the rules of procedure for the Conference; 9/

2. Decides that the third session of the Preparatory Committee will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 16 February 1996;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary provisions, within existing resources, so that the Preparatory Committee may, if it so decides, establish two working groups to meet in addition to plenary meetings for the duration of the third session;

4. Notes with interest the call by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to give the Conference the dimensions of a "city summit", and reaffirms that the Conference should be held at the highest possible level of participation;

5. Expresses its sincere appreciation to those States and organizations that have made or pledged financial or other contributions in support of the preparatory activities for the Conference, and requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to make every effort to raise the extrabudgetary resources required for Conference activities and preparations;

6. Renews its appeal to all Governments, especially the Governments of developed countries and other Governments in a position to do so, as well as to international and regional financial institutions, to make substantial contributions to the voluntary fund established by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/180 for the purpose of financing preparatory activities for the Conference and supporting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process;

7. Encourages all relevant non-governmental organizations that are interested, especially organizations from developing countries, to participate in and contribute to the Conference and its preparatory process on the basis of the procedures adopted at recent United Nations conferences;

9/ As amended in A/C.2/50/9 and Corr.1.

8. Invites the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the Conference undertaken by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the role played by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements in that process;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session a sub-item entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)", under the item "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation".

10. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the regional commissions on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at the regional level

The General Assembly decides to take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the regional commissions on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at the regional level. 10/

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part V)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 95, sub-items (a), (d) and (e) (see A/50/617, para. 3). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 37th, 39th and 42nd meetings, on 17 and 27 November and on 8 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.37, 39 and 42).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.25 and A/C.2/50/L.68

2. At the 37th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled, "Science and technology for development" (A/C.2/50/L.25), which read:

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* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/617 and addenda.

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"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the continuing validity of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, 1/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, endorsed in General Assembly resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979 and subsequently reaffirmed in Assembly resolution 44/14 A of 26 October 1989,

"Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 2/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 3/ the Cartagena Commitment, 4/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, the recommendations and decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly those contained in Agenda 21, 5/ General Assembly resolutions 46/165 of 19 December 1991 and 48/179 of 21 December 1993, and other resolutions and decisions adopted by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system concerning science and technology for development,

"Bearing in mind the vital contribution of science and technology, including new and emerging technologies, to the promotion of economic growth and development, particularly in developing countries, and stressing the importance of monitoring new developments in science and technology and their implications for society, on production, employment and international competitiveness, especially for developing countries,

"Recognizing the importance for developing countries of having access to science and technology so as to enhance their productivity and competitiveness in the world market, and stressing the need to promote, facilitate and finance access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, in particular to the developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

2/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

3/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

4/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Eighth Session, Report and Annexes (TD/364/Rev.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.D.5), part one, sect. A.

5/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

preferential terms, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries,

"Stressing the need to further promote endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries so as to enable them to participate in, benefit from and contribute to the rapid advances in science and technology,

"Recognizing that information technologies are important requisites for planning, development and decision-making in science and technology, and recognizing also their far-reaching implications for society,

"Reaffirming that the United Nations should play a central role in the promotion of cooperation in science and technology, and in the enhancement of support and assistance to developing countries in their efforts to achieve the objectives set forth by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in this regard,

"Commending the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in promoting the developing countries' endogenous capacity in science and technology, and recognizing its unique role as a global forum for the examination of science and technology questions, for the improvement of the understanding of science and technology policies for development and for the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters within the United Nations system, all in relation to development,

"Stressing the need to further strengthen, within the context of the forthcoming ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the role of the Conference in science and technology,

"Expressing concern over the continued inadequacy of resources devoted to fostering science and technology for development,

"Recognizing the need for Governments, and regional and international bodies to take measures to ensure women better access to and participation in scientific and technological areas, especially those areas where they are not represented or are underrepresented,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of programme 17, science and technology for development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 6/

"1. Endorses the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 on the basis

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6/ A/50/649.

of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its second session; 7/

"2. Reaffirms that capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries should remain a priority issue in the United Nations agenda, and urges that international cooperation efforts be intensified and strengthened towards developing countries' endogenous capacity-building in science and technology, including their capacity to utilize scientific and technological developments from abroad as well as to modify and adapt them to suit local conditions;

"3. Calls upon the international community, particularly developed countries and international organizations, to fulfil all their commitments as affirmed in chapter 34 of Agenda 21, 5/ in particular on the effective access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including new and emerging technologies and publicly owned technologies, to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries, so as to enable those developing countries to meet their development-related challenges;

"4. Stresses the urgent need to strengthen the vital role of the United Nations in the field of science and technology, particularly through effective policy guidance and better coordination, including in international cooperation in technology assessment, monitoring and forecasting;

"5. Calls upon United Nations organizations, funds and programmes to work in a coordinated manner to develop a catalogue of proved technologies to enable effective technology choice, by developing countries, of state-of-the-art technologies;

"6. Calls upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development to continue to interact effectively, through the Economic and Social Council, in carrying out their respective mandates;

"7. Takes note of the developments at the Consultative Meeting on a Coalition of Resources for Science and Technology for Development and welcomes the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should provide a forum for exchanging views and interaction among partners of different networks and coordination schemes;

"8. Reaffirms the need for adequate financial resources on a continuous and assured basis to foster science and technology for development, in particular to promote endogenous capacity-building in developing countries in accordance with their priorities;

7/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 11 (E/1995/31).

"9. Notes with appreciation the measures taken by the Secretary-General in response to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 48/179 and invites him to continue to take all necessary measures, including to explore the possibility of organizing a more effective coalition of resources within the United Nations development system, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks and bilateral funding agencies to ensure the full implementation of programme 17, science and technology for development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and the activities planned for 1996-1997 in the field of science and technology for development, in accordance with specific mandates provided for in the relevant Assembly resolutions;

"10. Recognizes the importance of cooperation among developing countries in the field of science and technology, building on their complementarities, and the need of further advancing such cooperation through the establishment and/or the strengthening of national technology and information centres in developing countries and their networking on regional, subregional and interregional and global levels to promote technology research, development and dissemination among developing countries, and urges the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and programmes to provide continued and enhanced support, through technical assistance and financing for such efforts;

"11. Welcomes the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the decision of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to select information technologies as the main substantive theme of its work during the inter-sessional period 1995-1997 and to set up panels and/or working groups to analyse, and elaborate and make recommendations on issues pertaining to information technologies and their implications for development;

"12. Takes note of the decision of the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to consider ways and means for the formulation of a common vision regarding the future contribution of science and technology for development, taking advantage of the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held at Vienna in 1979;

"13. Stresses the important role that the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development should play in enhancing endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries, and calls on all countries in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Fund;

"14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At the 42nd meting, on 8 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Science and technology for development" (A/C.2/50/L.68), which he submitted on the basis of

informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.25, and orally revised it as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 2, the words "as well as to modify and adapt" were replaced by the words "to adapt";

(b) In operative paragraph 3, the words "objectives affirmed" were replaced by the words "objectives as reaffirmed";

(c) In operative paragraph 5, the words "vital role" were replaced by the words "important role";

(d) In operative paragraph 11, the word "welcomes" was deleted;

(e) In operative paragraph 14, the words "so that they would have a greater impact" were replaced by the words "for greater impact".

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.68, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 11, draft resolution I).

5. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Japan and the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China (see A/C.2/50/SR.42).

6. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.68, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.25 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.38 and A/C.2/50/L.62

7. At the 39th meeting, on 27 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa" (A/C.2/50/L.38), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, 8/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and subsequently endorsed and reaffirmed by the General Assembly,

"Reaffirming also its resolution 46/151, the annex to which contains the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, having as its priority objectives the accelerated transformation,

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8/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

integration, diversification and growth of the African economies, in order to strengthen them within the world economy,

"Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled 'United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa' 9/ which, inter alia, concludes that the response of organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in supporting the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development has not matched the expectations and needs of many developing countries and makes a number of recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa, and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on that report, 10/ each submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in a note by the Secretary-General,

"Recognizing the crucial significance of science and technology, including the related information technologies for planning, development and decision-making in science and technology and the promotion of endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in the process of growth and development,

"Recognizing also that the fundamental objective of science and technology to meet basic needs should be to create conditions that increase the ability of the poor to gain access to, comprehend and use knowledge and technology creatively in order to satisfy their basic needs,

"Noting the efforts being undertaken by African leaders within the Presidential Forum on the Management of Science and Technology for Development in Africa, 1995-2005,

"Taking note of the Cairo Agenda for Action, adopted by the Summit of the Heads of States and Governments on 28 June 1995,

"1. Notes with appreciation the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled 'United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa', 9/ and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon; 10/

"2. Requests the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development to update the eight operational guidelines adopted in 1983 in order to provide a more comprehensive conceptual framework for the development and transfer of technology;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General, in liaison with the relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, to recommend and implement policy reforms that are needed to further the progress of science

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9/ A/50/125-E/1995/19, annex.

10/ A/50/125/Add.1-E/1995/19/Add.1, annex.

and technology in Africa, indicating the estimated costs of such an undertaking and the possible sources of funding;

"4. Requests African Governments to continue to implement political and economic policy reforms aimed at creating a favourable domestic environment for enterprise and innovations without which rapid development is not possible;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that organizations of the United Nations system refine and adopt recommendations 1 through 5 contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning institution-building functions, sustainability, the programme approach, technical back-stopping and chief technical advisers without prejudice to the views thereon of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and taking into account General Assembly resolution 47/199 and the outcome of the 1995 triennial policy review of operational activities for development within the United Nations system;

"6. Also requests the Secretary-General, within the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and its upcoming mid-term global review in 1996, to:

"(a) Initiate discussions at the highest level of the Administrative Committee on Coordination concerning the possibility of increased United Nations system policy and programmatic collaboration in support of science and technology capacity-building in Africa, especially in key areas identified in section III of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit;

"(b) Consider the feasibility and the timeliness of establishing a few pilot science and technology strategic institutions of national or subregional scope;

"(c) Undertake consultations within the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, on the possibility of convening a summit meeting on science and technology for development, with the substantive contribution of all the organizations of the United Nations system, to coincide with the Summit of the Organization of African Unity and with the participation of the donor community;

"7. Further requests the Secretary-General to report, under the appropriate agenda item, to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, on the implementation of the present resolution."

8. At the 42nd meeting, on 8 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa" (A/C.2/50/L.62), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.38.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.62 without a vote (see para. 11, draft resolution II).

10. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.62, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.38 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the continuing validity of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, 11/ and recalling the relevant paragraphs of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 12/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 13/ the Cartagena Commitment, 14/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, the relevant recommendations and decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly those contained in Agenda 21, 15/ and the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system concerning science and technology for development,

Bearing in mind the vital contribution of science and technology, including new and emerging technologies, to the promotion of economic growth and development, particularly in developing countries, and stressing the importance of monitoring new developments in science and technology and their implications

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11/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

12/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

13/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

14/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Eighth Session, Report and Annexes (TD/364/Rev.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.D.5), part one, sect. A.

15/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

for society, on production, employment and international competitiveness, especially for developing countries,

Recognizing the importance for developing countries of having access to science and technology so as to enhance their productivity and competitiveness in the world market, and stressing the need to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, in particular to the developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries,

Stressing the primary responsibility of all countries for their own science and technology policies, and the need to further promote endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries so as to enable them to participate in, benefit from and contribute to the rapid advances in science and technology,

Recognizing that information technologies are important requisites for planning, development and decision-making in science and technology, and recognizing also their far-reaching implications for society,

Recognizing the importance of developing countries' own efforts in the field of science and technology for development,

Reaffirming that the United Nations should play an important role in the promotion of cooperation in science and technology, and in the enhancement of support and assistance to developing countries in their efforts to achieve the objectives set forth by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in this regard,

Recognizing the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in promoting the developing countries' endogenous capacity in science and technology, and recognizing its unique function as a global forum for the examination of science and technology questions, for the improvement of the understanding of science and technology policies for development and for the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters within the United Nations system, all in relation to development,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in science and technology for development, as reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 48/179 of 21 December 1993,

Recognizing the need for adequate resources to be devoted to fostering science and technology for development,

Recognizing the special needs and requirements of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, especially those in Africa,

Also recognizing the relevant problems of countries with economies in transition in the sphere of the transformation and development of their scientific and technological potentials,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of programme 17, Science and technology for development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 16/

1. Reaffirms the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 on the basis of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its second session; 17/

2. Reaffirms that capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries should remain a priority issue in the United Nations agenda, and urges that international cooperation efforts be intensified and strengthened towards developing countries' endogenous capacity-building in science and technology, including their capacity to utilize scientific and technological developments from abroad and to adapt them to suit local conditions;

3. Calls upon the international community to meet all the objectives as reaffirmed in chapter 34 of Agenda 21, 15/ in particular those dealing with effective access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including new and emerging technologies and publicly owned technologies, to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries, so as to contribute to enabling those developing countries to meet their development-related challenges;

4. Stresses that it is important for developing countries to adopt and implement their own science and technology policies that support the national effort to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development in the light of their respective national conditions, needs, priorities and objectives;

5. Stresses the need to strengthen the important role of the United Nations in the field of science and technology, particularly through effective policy guidance and better coordination, including in international cooperation in technology assessment, monitoring and forecasting;

6. Recognizes the role of the private sector in science and technology for development, in particular in the transfer and development of science and technology capabilities;

7. Also recognizes the role of Governments in science and technology for development, in particular in providing appropriate regulatory frameworks and incentives for the development of science and technology capabilities;

16/ A/50/649.

17/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 11 (E/1995/31).

8. Requests the relevant organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations, in the spirit of coordination that should prevail in the activities of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology for development, to work in a coordinated manner to develop a catalogue of proved technologies that will enable developing countries to make effective choices from among state-of-the-art technologies;

9. Calls upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development to interact more effectively, through the Economic and Social Council, in carrying out their respective mandates;

10. Calls upon the supporting secretariats of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development to improve their interaction;

11. Takes note of the developments at the Consultative Meeting on a Coalition of Resources for Science and Technology for Development and the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development provide a forum for exchanging views and interaction among partners of different networks and coordination schemes;

12. Reaffirms the need for adequate financial resources on a continuous and assured basis to foster science and technology for development, in particular to promote endogenous capacity-building in developing countries in accordance with their priorities;

13. Notes with appreciation the measures taken by the Secretary-General in response to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 48/179 and invites him to continue to take all necessary measures, including to explore the possibility of organizing a more effective coalition of resources within the United Nations development system, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks and bilateral funding agencies to ensure the full implementation of programme 17, Science and technology for development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and the activities planned for 1996-1997 in the field of science and technology for development, in accordance with specific mandates provided for in the relevant Assembly resolutions;

14. Takes note that enhanced cooperation could help focus the activities of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology for development for greater impact;

15. Recognizes the importance of cooperation among developing countries in the field of science and technology, building on their complementarities, and the need for further advancing such cooperation through the establishment and/or the strengthening of national technology and information centres in developing countries and their networking on regional, subregional, interregional and global levels to promote technology research, training and dissemination as well as joint projects in developing countries, and urges the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and programmes to provide continued and enhanced support, through technical assistance and financing for such efforts;

16. Requests the relevant organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to continue to promote the development of effective and mutually beneficial technological cooperation between countries with economies in transition and all other countries, including in the area of new and emerging technologies;

17. Notes the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the decision of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to select information technologies as the main substantive theme of its work during the inter-sessional period 1995-1997 and to set up panels and/or working groups to analyse, and elaborate and make recommendations on issues pertaining to information technologies and their implications for development;

18. Takes note of the decision of the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to consider ways and means for the formulation of a common vision regarding the future contribution of science and technology for development, taking advantage of the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held at Vienna in 1979;

19. Stresses the potentially important role that the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development should play in enhancing endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries, and calls on all countries in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Fund;

20. Reaffirms the need for Governments and regional and international bodies to take measures to ensure that women have equal access to and equal opportunity to participate in scientific and technological areas, especially in areas where they are not represented or are underrepresented;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, 18/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and subsequently endorsed and reaffirmed by the General Assembly,

Reaffirming also its resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the annex to which contains the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in

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18/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

the 1990s, having as its priority objectives the accelerated transformation, integration, diversification and growth of the African economies, in order to strengthen them within the world economy,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa", 19/ and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Recognizing the crucial significance of science and technology, including the related information technologies for planning, development and decision-making in science and technology and the promotion of endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in the process of growth and development,

Recognizing also that the fundamental objective of science and technology to meet basic needs should be to create conditions that increase the ability of people living in poverty to gain access to, fully understand, integrate, use and generate knowledge and technology creatively in order to satisfy their basic needs,

Stressing the importance of South-South cooperation in the promotion of science and technology in Africa in the context of modalities for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, among other things,

Noting the efforts being undertaken by African leaders within the Presidential Forum on the Management of Science and Technology for Development in Africa, 1995-2005,

Taking note of the Cairo Agenda for Action, adopted on 28 June 1995 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-first ordinary session,

1. Takes note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa", 19/ and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon; 20/

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to promote and implement activities in support of science and technology in Africa in the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to make concrete proposals on activities, in the context of the mid-term review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, to be carried out in 1996, aimed at strengthening United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa, taking into account the views and recommendations contained in the reports mentioned above and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-first session.

19/ A/50/125-E/1995/19, annex.

20/ A/50/125/Add.1-E/1995/19/Add.1, annex.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE 1990s

Report of the Second Committee (Part VI)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 95, sub-items (a), (d) and (e) (see A/50/617, para. 3). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 38th and 43rd meetings, on 22 November and 12 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.38 and 43).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.31 and L.72

2. At the 38th meeting, on 22 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s" (A/C.2/50/L.31), which read:

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* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/617 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 45/206 of 21 December 1990, in which it endorsed the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s 1/ and 49/98 of 19 December 1994, in which it decided to convene the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

"Reaffirming the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action, whose prime objective is to arrest the further deterioration in the socio-economic situation of the least developed countries, to reactivate and accelerate growth and development in those countries and, in the process, to set them on the path of sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

"Expressing serious concern that the least developed countries as a group have not been able to achieve many of the objectives of the Programme of Action and that their overall socio-economic situation has continued to deteriorate,

"Noting with concern the reduced flow of development resources to the least developed countries, their heavy debt service burden and their continued marginalization in world trade,

"Taking note of agreed conclusions 423 (XLI) of 31 March 1995 of the Trade and Development Board 2/ on the annual review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s which was underpinned by The Least Developed Countries 1995 Report, 3/

"Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General 4/ on the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

"1. Reaffirms the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s as the basis for continuing cooperation between the least developed countries and their development partners, as well as its commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

1/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

2/ A/50/15 (vol. I), chap. I, sect. B.

3/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.II.D.2.

4/ A/50/745.

"2. Endorses the measures and recommendations contained in the report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s 5/ which are designed to ensure the full implementation of the Programme of Action over the second half of the decade;

"3. Calls upon all Governments, international and multilateral organizations, financial institutions and development funds, the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and all other organizations concerned to take immediate, concrete and adequate steps to implement the Programme of Action, taking full account of the measures and recommendations of the mid-term global review so as to ensure the reactivation and acceleration of growth and development in the least developed countries and enable them to participate in and benefit from the process of globalization and liberalization;

"4. Welcomes the fundamental and far-reaching domestic reforms that are being implemented by the least developed countries, encourages those countries to continue such efforts and calls upon the international community to provide adequate support thereto;

"5. Strongly urges all donor countries to implement fully and expeditiously their commitments in all areas, including the agreed menu of aid targets and commitments as set out in the Programme of Action, as well as the measures agreed upon at the mid-term global review so as to provide a significant and substantial increase in the aggregate level of external support for the least developed countries, keeping in mind the increased needs of those countries as well as the requirements of the countries added to the list of the least developed countries following the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

"6. Stresses the critical importance of multilateral assistance for the least developed countries, and calls for adequate replenishment of the International Development Association, the soft-term windows of the regional development banks and grant-based multilateral programmes;

"7. Calls for strengthened efforts with respect to the international debt strategy in favour of the least developed countries through the adoption of concrete measures to alleviate the debt burden, including action in the area of multilateral debt, and increased concessional financing, and encourages the Bretton Woods institutions to expedite their ongoing consideration of ways to address the issue of the multilateral debt of the least developed countries;

"8. Reiterates that increased opportunities for trade can help reactivate economic growth in the least developed countries, calls for significantly improved market access for their products and emphasizes the importance of concrete action to fully and expeditiously implement the

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5/ See A/50/745.

Marrakesh Declaration 6/ as it relates to the least developed countries, the ministerial decision on measures in favour of the least developed countries and the ministerial decision on measures concerning possible negative effects of the reform programmes on the least developed countries and net food-importing countries, as well as the measures agreed at the mid-term global review, with a view to enabling the least developed countries to maximize the benefits from the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations 6/ and to cope with any adverse effects arising therefrom;

"9. Reaffirms the crucial importance of the follow-up and monitoring mechanisms for implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels;

"10. Recalls that in its resolution 49/98, it invited the Secretary-General to make recommendations to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, with a view to ensuring that the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had sufficient capacity to undertake an effective follow-up of the outcome of the mid-term global review and to follow up the conclusions and recommendations relating to the least developed countries adopted by major global conferences, and in this regard takes note of the proposals of the Secretary-General;

"11. Emphasizes the importance of the annual reviews by the Trade and Development Board of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the pressing need for enabling representatives of the least developed countries to participate in the annual reviews, and, to that end, requests the Secretary-General to include in his proposals referred to in paragraph 10 above necessary appropriations from the regular budget of the United Nations, beginning with that for the biennium 1996-1997, to cover the cost of participation of one representative of each least developed country in the annual reviews;

"12. Decides that a global review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action will be carried out at a third United Nations conference on the least developed countries in the year 2000 and that the precise level, mandate, date and venue for such a review, as well as the preparatory process, should be determined by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, in the light of the consultations that take place under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

"13. Calls upon the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session to take into account the outcome of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

6/ See Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994 (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

"14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At the 43rd meeting, on 12 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced and orally corrected a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s" (A/C.2/50/L.72), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.31.

4. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General submitted a statement (A/C.2/50/L.77) of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.72.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.72, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 9).

6. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh and the United States of America (see A/C.2/50/SR.43).

7. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.72, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.31 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft decision

8. At its 43rd meeting, on 12 December, the Committee decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the mid-term global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action (A/50/746) (see para. 10).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/206 of 21 December 1990, in which it endorsed the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s 7/ and 49/98 of 19 December 1994, in which it decided to convene the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting of the Mid-term Global

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7/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Reaffirming the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action, the prime objective of which is to arrest the further deterioration in the socio-economic situation of the least developed countries, to reactivate and accelerate growth and development in those countries and, in the process, to set them on the path of sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Expressing serious concern that the least developed countries as a group have not been able to achieve many of the objectives of the Programme of Action and that their overall socio-economic situation has continued to deteriorate,

Noting with concern the reduced flow of development resources to the least developed countries, the resulting need to accord them priority in the allocation of concessional resources and their continued marginalization in world trade, as well as the fact that many least developed countries face serious debt problems and more than half are considered debt-distressed,

Taking note of agreed conclusions 423 (XLI) of 31 March 1995 of the Trade and Development Board 8/ on the annual review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, which was underpinned by The Least Developed Countries 1995 Report, 9/

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General 10/ transmitting the report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

1. Reaffirms the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s 7/ as the basis for continuing cooperation between the least developed countries, which have the responsibility for their own development, and their development partners, based on shared responsibility and strengthened partnership, as well as its commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

2. Endorses the measures and recommendations contained in the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, as annexed

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8/ A/50/15 (vol. I), chap. I, sect. B.

9/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.II.D.2.

10/ A/50/745.

hereto, 11/ which are designed to ensure the full implementation of the Programme of Action over the second half of the decade;

3. Calls upon all Governments, international and multilateral organizations, financial institutions and development funds, the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and all other organizations concerned to take immediate, concrete and adequate steps to implement the Programme of Action, taking full account of the measures and recommendations of the mid-term global review so as to ensure sustained economic growth and sustainable development in the least developed countries and to enable them to participate in and benefit from the process of globalization and liberalization;

4. Notes that many least developed countries, for their part, have been implementing courageous and far-reaching policy reforms and adjustment measures in line with the Programme of Action, and in that regard emphasizes the need for national policies and measures aimed at establishing macroeconomic stability by rationalizing public expenditure and adopting sound monetary and fiscal policies so as to ensure a dynamic private sector by such means as providing a sound legal framework and improving human resources development, living standards, health and the status of women, and calls upon the international community to provide adequate support thereto;

5. Strongly urges all donor countries to implement fully and expeditiously their commitments in all relevant areas, including the agreed menu of aid targets and commitments as set out in the Programme of Action and support to reinforce structural adjustment reform, as well as the measures agreed upon at the mid-term global review so as to provide a significant and substantial increase in the aggregate level of external support for the least developed countries, keeping in mind the increased needs of those countries as well as the requirements of the countries added to the list of the least developed countries following the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

6. Stresses the critical importance of providing multilateral assistance for the least developed countries, in the form of grant-based multilateral programmes, and in that regard calls attention to the need to ensure adequate replenishment of the International Development Association and the soft-term windows of the regional development banks;

7. Emphasizes the serious debt problems of the least developed countries, which necessitate strengthened efforts to formulate an international debt strategy that should include concrete measures to alleviate the debt burden and increased concessional financing in support of appropriate economic policy measures, which will be critical to the revitalization of the growth and development of the least developed countries, and encourages the Bretton Woods institutions to expedite the ongoing consideration of ways to address the issue of multilateral debt, including those concerning the least developed countries;

11/ A/50/745, parts one to three, which will be annexed to the final text of the present draft resolution.

8. Reiterates that increased opportunities for trade can help reactivate economic growth in the least developed countries, calls for significantly improved market access for their products and emphasizes the importance of applying effectively the provisions of the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, 12/ and further emphasizes in that context the importance of taking concrete action, as appropriate, to fully and expeditiously implement the Marrakesh Declaration 12/ as it relates to the least developed countries and the ministerial decision on measures in favour of the least developed countries, as well as the measures agreed to at the mid-term global review, with a view to enabling the least developed countries to maximize their benefit from the Final Act and to cope with any adverse effects arising therefrom;

9. Also reiterates the importance attached to the implementation of the ministerial decision on measures concerning possible negative effects of reform programmes on the least developed countries and net food-importing developing countries;

10. Reaffirms the importance of the follow-up and monitoring mechanisms for implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels as crucial to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

11. Recalls that in its resolution 49/98, it invited the Secretary-General to make recommendations to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, with a view to ensuring that the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had sufficient capacity to undertake an effective follow-up of the outcome of the mid-term global review and to follow up the conclusions and recommendations relating to the least developed countries adopted by major United Nations conferences, and in this regard takes note of the relevant proposals of the Secretary-General related to the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997;

12. Emphasizes the importance of the annual reviews by the Trade and Development Board of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the pressing need for enabling representatives of the least developed countries to participate in such annual reviews, and to that end requests the Secretary-General to defray the cost of participation of representatives of least developed countries by mobilizing extrabudgetary resources for that purpose and by reallocating existing resources of the regular budget, if required;

13. Recalls that at the end of the decade, a global review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action will be carried out, in accordance with paragraph 140 of the Programme of Action and operative paragraph 7 (c) of General Assembly resolution 45/206 regarding the consideration by the Assembly at its fifty-second session of the holding of a third United Nations conference on the least developed countries;

12/ See Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994 (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

14. Calls upon the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session to take into account the outcome of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

* * *

10. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Secretary-General on the mid-term global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

The General Assembly decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the mid-term global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. 13/

13/ A/50/746.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part VII)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 95, sub-items (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) and (k) (see A/50/617, para. 3). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 40th and 42nd meetings, on 30 November and 8 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.40 and 42).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/50/L.46 AND L.66

2. At the 40th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women in development" (A/C.2/50/L.46), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 40/204 of 17 December 1985, 42/178 of 11 December 1987 and 44/171 of 19 December 1989, as well as all other relevant Assembly resolutions on the integration of women in development,

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* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/617 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996, and to establish both a preparatory committee and an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference,

"Reiterating its gratitude to the Government of Turkey for offering to act as host to the Conference, which is to be held in Istanbul,

"Noting with satisfaction the progress made so far in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), as outlined in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on its second substantive session, 1/ as well as in the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Conference, 2/

"Reaffirming the importance of the principles and concepts set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 3/ and Agenda 21 4/ for the purpose of implementing the decisions and recommendations of Habitat II,

"Recalling also its resolution 49/109, in which, inter alia, it decided that a third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee be held at United Nations Headquarters early in 1996 to complete the preparatory work for the Conference,

"1. Endorses the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on its second substantive session (Nairobi, 24 April-5 May 1995), 1/ which contains, inter alia, decision II/1 on the financing of the Conference and its preparatory activities; decision II/3 on the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee on the organization of work of the Conference, including the holding of pre-conference consultations on 1 and 2 June 1996, the establishment of committees and other procedural matters; and decision II/4 on the rules of procedure for the Conference;

"2. Decides that the third session of the Preparatory Committee will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 26 February to 8 March 1996 (rather than from 5 to 16 February 1996) to finalize the

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/50/37).

2/ A/50/519.

3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.18 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex I.

4/ Ibid., annex II.

provisional agenda for the Conference and to formulate the draft global plan of action to be adopted by the Conference, including a statement of principles and commitments as an integrated part of the plan of action;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary provisions, within existing resources, so that the Preparatory Committee may, if it so decides, establish two working groups to meet in addition to plenary meetings for the duration of the third session;

"4. Reaffirms that the Conference should have the dimensions of a 'city summit' and should be held at the highest possible level of participation, as affirmed in its resolution 49/109 of 19 December 1994;

"5. Expresses its sincere appreciation to those States and organizations that have made or pledged financial or other contributions in support of the preparatory activities for the Conference, and renews its appeal to those that have not yet done so to contribute substantially to the voluntary fund, which was established by the Assembly in its resolution 47/180 for the purpose of financing preparatory activities for the Conference, in order to facilitate the full and effective participation of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, at the third session of the Preparatory Committee and at the Conference itself;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the outcome of the Conference;

"7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session a sub-item entitled 'United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)' under the item 'Sustainable development and international economic cooperation'."

3. A statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.27 submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, was contained in document A/C.2/50/L.44.

4. At the 41st meeting, on 5 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)" (A/C.2/50/L.57), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.27, and orally revised it as follows: In the fourth preambular paragraph, in the last line the word "implementing" was replaced by the words "guiding the implementation of".

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.57, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 9).

6. After the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.57, a statement was made by Turkey (see A/C.2/50/SR.41).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/204 of 17 December 1985, 42/178 of 11 December 1987 and 44/171 of 19 December 1989, as well as all other relevant Assembly resolutions on the integration of women in development, and the resolutions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the integration of women in development,

Bearing in mind the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and other recent major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recognizing the significant contribution that women make to economic activities and the major force that they represent for change and development in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas, such as agriculture, industry and services,

Reaffirming that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace, and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries have resulted in the rapid feminization of poverty, especially in rural areas and in female-headed households,

Aware that the continued discrimination against women, their continued lack of equal access to education and training, and their lack of control over land, capital, technology and other areas of production impede their full contribution to and opportunity to benefit from development,

Recognizing that the informal sector is a major source of entrepreneurship and employment for women in many developing countries,

Noting the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in facilitating the advancement of women in development,

1. Welcomes the adoption of the Beijing Declaration 4/ and Platform for Action 5/ by the Fourth World Conference on Women;

4/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

5/ Ibid., annex II.

2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development; 6/

3. Calls for the urgent implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action as well as the relevant provisions contained in the outcome of all other major United Nations conferences and summits;

4. Stresses that a favourable and conducive international and national economic and financial environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the effective integration of women in development;

5. Also stresses the importance of developing national strategies for promoting sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities to generate income among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty;

6. Calls upon all Governments and all actors of society to implement the commitment made in Beijing to create an enabling environment through, inter alia, removing discriminatory barriers and ensuring the full and equal participation of women in economic activities through, inter alia, the adoption of gender-sensitive policies and legal measures and the provision of other necessary structures;

7. Urges all Governments to ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources, and to increase women's access to credit by instituting innovative lending practices, including practices that integrate credit with services and training for women, and that provide flexible credit facilities to women, in particular rural women, women in the informal sector, young women and women who lack access to traditional sources of collateral;

8. Urges Governments to develop and promote methodologies for incorporating a gender perspective into all aspects of policy-making, including economic policy-making;

9. Calls upon the United Nations system, in particular its funds and programmes and specialized agencies, and all other relevant organizations to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming gender perspective in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes;

10. Urges the international community, the United Nations system and other relevant organizations to give priority to assisting developing countries' efforts to ensure the full and effective participation of women in deciding and implementing development strategies, including through increased access to health care, capital, education, training and technology, as well as by women's wider participation in decision-making;

11. Urges multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks to review and implement policies in support of national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach women, in particular in rural and remote areas;

6/ A/50/399.

8. Invites the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the Conference undertaken by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the role played by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements in that process;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session a sub-item entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)", under the item "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation".

10. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the regional commissions on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at the regional level

The General Assembly decides to take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the regional commissions on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at the regional level. 10/

10/ A/50/411.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part VII)**

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 95, sub-items (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) and (k) (see A/50/617, para. 3). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 40th and 42nd meetings, on 30 November and 8 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.40 and 42).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/50/L.46 AND L.66

2. At the 40th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women in development" (A/C.2/50/L.46), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 40/204 of 17 December 1985, 42/178 of 11 December 1987 and 44/171 of 19 December 1989, as well as all other relevant Assembly resolutions on the integration of women in development,

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as well as the resolutions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the integration of women in development,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development, 1/

"Recognizing the significant contribution that women make to economic activities and the major force that they represent for change and development in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas, such as agriculture, industry and services,

"Emphasizing that empowering women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty, since women contribute to the economy through both their remunerated and unremunerated work,

"Recognizing that the economic and financial crisis that exists in many developing countries has resulted in the rapid feminization of poverty, especially in rural areas and in female-headed households,

"Aware that women's continued lack of equal access to education and training, and their lack of control over land, capital, technology and other areas of production impede their full contribution to and opportunity to benefit from development,

"Recognizing that the informal sector is a major source of employment for women in many developing countries,

"Noting the important role played by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in the integration of women in development,

"1. Welcomes the adoption of the Beijing Declaration 2/ and Platform for Action 3/ by the Fourth World Conference on Women;

"2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development; 1/

"3. Notes with satisfaction the inclusion in the Platform for Action of critical areas of concern, namely, women in poverty, women in the economy, and women and the environment;

"4. Stresses that a favourable and conducive international economic and financial environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the effective integration of women in development;

1/ A/50/399.

2/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

3/ Ibid., annex II.

"5. Calls upon all Governments to create an enabling environment to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities through, inter alia, the adoption of policy and legal measures and provisions of other necessary structures;

"6. Requests the international community, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to assist developing countries by providing opportunities, including scholarships, to women and girls, in particular in the areas of science, technical and vocational training, so as to facilitate the full and effective contribution of women to development;

"7. Urges multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks to review and implement policies to ensure that a higher proportion of measures reach women in rural and remote areas."

3. At the 42nd meeting, on 8 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women in development" (A/C.2/50/L.66), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.46, and orally revised the text as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 6, in the second line, the words "at the above-mentioned Conference" were replaced with the words "in Beijing", and in the third line, the word "by" was replaced with the word "through";

(b) In operative paragraph 10, in the fourth line, the words "by increasing women's" were replaced with the words "through increased", and in the fifth line, the word "by" was inserted before the word "women's".

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.66, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Japan (see A/C.2/50/SR.42).

6. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.66, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.46 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/204 of 17 December 1985, 42/178 of 11 December 1987 and 44/171 of 19 December 1989, as well as all other relevant Assembly resolutions on the integration of women in development, and the resolutions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the integration of women in development,

Bearing in mind the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and other recent major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recognizing the significant contribution that women make to economic activities and the major force that they represent for change and development in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas, such as agriculture, industry and services,

Reaffirming that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace, and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries have resulted in the rapid feminization of poverty, especially in rural areas and in female-headed households,

Aware that the continued discrimination against women, their continued lack of equal access to education and training, and their lack of control over land, capital, technology and other areas of production impede their full contribution to and opportunity to benefit from development,

Recognizing that the informal sector is a major source of entrepreneurship and employment for women in many developing countries,

Noting the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in facilitating the advancement of women in development,

1. Welcomes the adoption of the Beijing Declaration 4/ and Platform for Action 5/ by the Fourth World Conference on Women;

4/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

5/ Ibid., annex II.

2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development; 6/

3. Calls for the urgent implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action as well as the relevant provisions contained in the outcome of all other major United Nations conferences and summits;

4. Stresses that a favourable and conducive international and national economic and financial environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the effective integration of women in development;

5. Also stresses the importance of developing national strategies for promoting sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities to generate income among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty;

6. Calls upon all Governments and all actors of society to implement the commitment made in Beijing to create an enabling environment through, inter alia, removing discriminatory barriers and ensuring the full and equal participation of women in economic activities through, inter alia, the adoption of gender-sensitive policies and legal measures and the provision of other necessary structures;

7. Urges all Governments to ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources, and to increase women's access to credit by instituting innovative lending practices, including practices that integrate credit with services and training for women, and that provide flexible credit facilities to women, in particular rural women, women in the informal sector, young women and women who lack access to traditional sources of collateral;

8. Urges Governments to develop and promote methodologies for incorporating a gender perspective into all aspects of policy-making, including economic policy-making;

9. Calls upon the United Nations system, in particular its funds and programmes and specialized agencies, and all other relevant organizations to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming gender perspective in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes;

10. Urges the international community, the United Nations system and other relevant organizations to give priority to assisting developing countries' efforts to ensure the full and effective participation of women in deciding and implementing development strategies, including through increased access to health care, capital, education, training and technology, as well as by women's wider participation in decision-making;

11. Urges multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks to review and implement policies in support of national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach women, in particular in rural and remote areas;

6/ A/50/399.

12. Requests the United Nations development system to work towards establishing a more coherent approach to its support for women's income-generating activities, in particular credit schemes;

13. Decides to include on the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session a sub-item entitled "Effective mobilization and integration of women in development";

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on action taken to implement the present resolution.

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Agenda item 95 (g)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part VIII)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 95, sub-items (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) and (k) (see A/50/617, para. 3). Action on sub-item (g) was taken at the 38th and 42nd meetings, on 22 November and 8 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.38 and 42).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/50/L.34 AND L.70

2. At the 38th meeting, on 22 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Developing human resources for development" (A/C.2/50/L.34), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 48/205 of 21 December 1990, 45/191 of 21 December 1990, 46/143 of 17 December 1991, S-18/3 of 1 May 1990 and 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

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* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/617 and addenda.

"Reaffirming that the human being is central to all activities related to development and that human resources development strategies are crucial to the achievement of sustainable development goals,

"Recognizing that human resources development should contribute to total human development which enlarges the choices available to people in developing their lives and fulfilling their aspirations and that there is a need to integrate human resources development into comprehensive strategies for human development, taking into account the needs of all people, in particular the needs of women,

"Stressing that there is need for a supportive and favourable international economic environment which will enhance human development in developing countries and promote economic growth and development,

"Recognizing that structural adjustment and stabilization programmes are intended to promote economic growth and development but may have adverse effects on human resources development and therefore emphasizing the need to ensure that, in the formulation and implementation of such programmes, action is taken to mitigate their negative effects,

"Emphasizing the need for the provision of adequate resources to enhance the capacity of developing countries to promote human resources development policies and programmes,

"Recognizing the vital role that South-South and North-South cooperation play in supporting national efforts in human resources development,

"Emphasizing the need for coordination and integration among the organs and organizations of the United Nations system in assisting developing countries to foster the development of their human resources, especially that of the most vulnerable, and for the United Nations to continue to give priority to human resources development in developing countries,

"Recognizing the importance accorded in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development to the human component of development, 1/

"Recognizing also the importance of the Programme of Action adopted at the recently concluded Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on developing human resources for development; 2/

1/ See A/CONF.166/9, chap. I.

2/ A/50/330 and Corr.1.

"2. Emphasizes that in developing human resources, an overall, well conceived and integrated approach should be adopted which takes into account the needs of all people, in particular the needs of women, and other vital areas such as population education, nutrition, water, sanitation, housing, communications, education and training, and science and technology, and also the need to create more opportunity for employment in an environment which enhances human capacities for development;

"3. Calls upon the international community, in particular the developed countries, to support national efforts to develop human resources for development by an increased flow of resources for those activities and by fostering a conducive international economic environment;

"4. Calls upon the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to ensure the coordination of activities in support of national and regional action in the area of human resources development;

"5. Calls for the inclusion of social safety nets to mitigate the adverse impact of structural adjustment which has a tendency to reduce budgetary allocations for education, health and other social infrastructures which have a direct impact on human resources development;

"6. Acknowledges the action taken thus far by the United Nations system in operational activities in the area of human resources development and urges further action in accordance with resolutions of the General Assembly on human resources for development;

"7. Notices with concern the worrisome trend of a decrease in overall development assistance which seriously affects the level of resources for human resources development and emphasizes that financial commitment to human resources development is of critical importance in contributing to the enhancement of the concept of people-centred development;

"8. Further emphasizes that women are an integral part of the human resources development process and should be integrated into and participate fully in the formulation and implementation of national policies to promote human resources development;

"9. Calls for follow-up action to be taken in respect of the Copenhagen Declaration in order to ensure the strengthening of human resources development as addressed in the Declaration and Programme of Action; 2/

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to take into account the important link between human resources and human settlements, to be addressed at the upcoming United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, to be held in Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the activities of the United Nations system in human resources development and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including further action

taken by the United Nations system with regard to human resources development and in the enhancement of inter-agency coordination;

"12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled 'Human resources development'."

3. At the 42nd meeting, on 8 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Developing human resources for development" (A/C.2/50/L.70), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.34.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.70 without a vote (see para. 6).

5. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.70, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.34 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Developing human resources for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 48/205 of 21 December 1993, 46/143 of 17 December 1991 and 45/191 of 21 December 1990, as well as its resolutions S-18/3 of 1 May 1990 and 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming that people are central to all activities related to development and that human resources development is an essential means of achieving sustainable development goals,

Recognizing that human resources development should contribute to total human development, which enlarges the choices available to people in developing their lives and fulfilling their aspirations, and that there is a need to integrate human resources development into comprehensive strategies for human development that mainstreams a gender perspective, taking into account the needs of all people, in particular the needs of women,

Stressing that there is need for a supportive and favourable international economic environment that will enhance human development in developing countries and promote economic growth and development,

Recognizing that, while economic reforms and structural adjustment programmes are intended to promote economic growth and development, elements of such programmes may have a possibly adverse impact on human resources development, and also that there is a need to take action, in the formulation and implementation of these programmes, to mitigate any negative effects,

Stressing the need for adequate resources to enhance the capacity of Governments of developing countries to promote human resources development in pursuit of their national programmes, plans and strategies for development,

Stressing also that Governments of developing countries have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development,

Recognizing the vital role that South-South and North-South cooperation plays in supporting national efforts in human resources development, bilaterally as well as multilaterally,

Emphasizing the need for coordination and integration among the organs and organizations of the United Nations system in assisting developing countries to foster the development of their human resources, especially that of the most vulnerable, and for the United Nations to continue to give priority to human resources development in developing countries,

Recognizing the importance accorded in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development to the human component of development, 3/

Recognizing also the importance of the Platform for Action adopted at the recently concluded Fourth World Conference on Women, 4/ held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on developing human resources for development; 5/

2. Emphasizes that, in the development of human resources, an overall, well-conceived and integrated approach that mainstreams a gender perspective and takes into account the needs of all people should be adopted, incorporating such vital areas as population, health, nutrition, water, sanitation, housing, communications, education and training, and science and technology, as well as taking into account the need to create more opportunities for employment in an environment that guarantees opportunities for political freedom, popular participation, respect for human rights, justice and equity, all of which are essential for enhancing human capacity to meet the challenge of development;

3. Encourages all countries to accord priority, in particular in national budgets, to human resources development in the context of the adoption of economic and social policies;

4. Emphasizes the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of national policies to promote human resources development;

3/ See A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1.

4/ See A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1.

5/ A/50/330 and Corr.1.

5. Calls upon the international community to support national efforts to develop human resources for development by increasing the priority of resources for those activities;

6. Calls upon the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to ensure the coordination of activities in support of national and regional action in the area of human resources development;

7. Emphasizes that structural adjustment programmes should include social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the promotion of full and productive employment, and the enhancement of social integration;

8. Also emphasizes that Governments and relevant institutions should ensure, where appropriate, an adequate social safety net under structural adjustment programmes and should develop policies to reduce the negative effects of these programmes and to improve their positive impact, bearing in mind that social safety nets associated with economic restructuring are short-term by nature and should be considered as complementary strategies;

9. Acknowledges the action taken thus far by the United Nations system in operational activities in the area of human resources development, and urges further action in accordance with resolutions of the General Assembly on human resources for development;

10. Notes with serious concern the worrisome trend of a decrease in overall development assistance, which affects the level of resources for human resources development, and emphasizes that financial commitment to human resources development is of critical importance in contributing to the enhancement of the concept of people-centred sustainable development;

11. Calls for follow-up action to be taken as recommended in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and in the Beijing Platform for Action, in order to ensure the strengthening of human resources development;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to take into account the outcome of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in the context of human resources development;

13. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the activities of the United Nations system in human resources development and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including further action taken by the United Nations system with regard to human resources development and the enhancement of inter-agency coordination;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session a sub-item entitled "Human resources development" under the item entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation".